

DURHAM HOMELESS SERVICES ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Wednesday, October 26 2016

3:00 p.m.

**Durham County Human Services Building
414 E. Main Street – 2nd Floor Conference Room**

The Durham Homeless Services Advisory Committee (HSAC) met on the above date and time.

Committee Members Present: Chair Fred Stoppelkamp, Vice-Chair Angela Holmes, Secretary Charita McCollers, Linzie Atkins, Veterans Services Office, Director Michael Becketts, Durham County Social Services (proxy for Commissioner Michael Page), Mayor Pro Tempore Cora Cole-McFadden, City Manager Thomas J. Bonfield, Assistant County Manager Drew Cummings, Meredith Daye, Development Director, Durham Housing Authority (DHA) Interim Director Calleen Herbert, Department of Academic Community Services Learning Program at North Carolina Central University, Reverend Dr. Warren Herndon, Jennifer Jones, Adult Employment Program Coordinator, Office of Economic and Workforce Development, Pam Karriker, Christian Assembly, Melody Marshall, Durham Public Schools Homeless Liaison, Ve'ga Swepson, Durham Technical Community College, Reverend Chris Tuttle, Westminster Presbyterian Church and Mayme Webb-Bledsoe, Duke University.

Excused Committee Members: Emanuel Kearney

Committee Members Absent: Lindsey Jordan Arledge, VA Medical Center, Captain Stan Harris, Durham County Sheriff's Department, County Commissioner Michael Page, (Michael Becketts, *proxy*) and Tony Tosh, Prosperity Recovery Services.

Staff Present: Director Reginald Johnson, Project Manager Matthew Schnars, Administrative Analyst Keshia Barnette (Department of Community Development), Community Engagement Coordinator Jacob Lerner (Department of Neighborhood Improvement Services (NIS)) and Senior Executive Assistant Sheila Bullock (Office of the City Clerk).

Also Present: Megan Butler (Durham Congregations in Action); Shana Carignan, Ryan Fehrman (Families Moving Forward (FMF)); Emily Carr (HCH); Martin Friedman (Housing for New Hope (HFNH)); Stephen Hopkins (PAC 1 Co-Facilitator); Jaylyn McLean (Healing with CAARE); Sheldon Mitchell (Urban Ministries of Durham (UMD)); Larry Partee' (Homeless); Gudrun Parmer (Durham County Criminal Justice Resource Center (DCO CJRC)); Alex Protzman, Executive Director (LIFE Skills Foundation/HSAC Youth Subcommittee); Ryan Fehrman, Director (Families Moving Forward (FMF)), Larry Partee' (Homeless); Shawn Ross (Indigo Construction) and Janet Xiao (Community Empowerment Foundation (CEF) /Unlocking Doors Initiative).

Subject: Call to Order/Welcome

Chair Stoppelkamp called the meeting to order at 3:07 p.m. and welcomed everyone. He announced that two individuals requested to speak during the Public Comment Period.

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Subject: Public Comment Period

Stephen Hopkins, PAC 1 Co-Facilitator gave a brief update on the NECD Summit. He stated that it was a rainy day for the Summit and 13 participants showed up for it, however, there was a total group of 45 people. Mr. Hopkins commented that the conversation for the Summit was interesting. Durham Police Chief C.J. Davis stopped by and took pictures with several of the participants.

Mr. Hopkins noted that concerns voiced during the Summit included housing, crime, programs and personal accountability. A de-briefing is scheduled for Wednesday, October 26, 2016 and Mr. Hopkins will provide a better report at the HSAC's November meeting.

Mr. Hopkins reminded those providers who work with the homeless, the re-entry folks and low income people that at some point the leadership of Northeast would like to meet with them to review everything that came out of the Summit. They want to try and come up with a "game plan" before they bring the group together again. Plans are being reviewed for another Summit and Mr. Hopkins will provide more details as things transpire.

Mr. Hopkins introduced Jacob Lerner, District 1 Community Coordinator (NIS Department) who will also be working on the Summit.

Larry Partee' noted that not only did the Police Chief speak at the Summit but there was representation from the County Commissioners. He added that more than half of the people came from Urban Ministries and participated in a photographic survey that was part of a project. Mr. Partee' stated that he was informed by the person in charge of the project that all of the pictures that were taken of the people from Urban Ministries were selected to be displayed at an exhibit being held on October 31, 2016.

Ryan Fehrman, Director of Families Moving Forward, formerly known as Genesis Home, Durham Inter-Faith Hospitality Network and Chair of the HSAC Housing Results Team made comments regarding working with the Durham Housing Authority (DHA) and developing a closer relationship with them. He feels that working with the DHA is going to be their best bet for getting homeless people housed. In light of this effort Mr. Fehrman noted that the Housing Results Team will be partnering with the "Unlocking Doors" initiative in the upcoming months. He commented he had heard that the number of landlords accepting housing choice vouchers has decreased from almost 700 to approximately 400. Mr. Fehrman stated this indicates a wake-up call and that something needs to be done differently if they are to entice landlords to take the vouchers. He encourages the endorsement of the "Shared Risk Fund" also known as the Risk Mitigation or Tenant Insurance.

Subject: Minutes Review & Approval – September 28, 2016

Motion by Committee Member Herndon, seconded by Mayor Pro Tempore Cole-McFadden to approve the HSAC minutes of September 28, 2016 was approved at 3:14 p.m.

Subject: State ESG

Committee Member Karriker, representing the HSAC Structure Subcommittee, reported that the group met on October 18, 2016 to consider the ESG funds and applications. Initially five organizations indicated they were applying for funding; however, it turned out only three organizations actually applied. Committee Member Karriker explained that Healing with CAARE was one of the applicants but they did not present a complete application and additional documents were needed. A deadline was set for them to provide the additional information but Healing with CAARE did not make the deadline. There was a contingency made that if Healing with CAARE was not heard from then the money would be reallocated to the other organizations.

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Committee Member Karriker stated she was informed right before this HSAC meeting that Healing with CAARE is appealing the decision. The Structure Subcommittee is scheduled to meet to consider the appeal.

In response to City Manager Bonfield's question regarding what amounts were received last year by the two organizations, Mr. Schnars stated he was not sure but he noted that Life Skills Foundation has never received any ESG funding. He noted that the requested amounts of Life Skills Foundation and Families Moving Forward totaled \$54,000.

Assistant County Manager Cummings wanted to know how staff came up with the recommended numbers given that the organizations requested less. Mr. Schnars offered an explanation.

Committee Member Herndon asked for more information on the organization WE HELP INC. Mr. Schnars stated that he thinks this group is an arm of USA Veterans Help. He added that WE HELP INC did not submit an application.

Secretary McCollers asked for clarity regarding the issue of Healing with CAARE not meeting the application submittal deadline and their appeal. She also asked if missing information had been received from Healing with CAARE. Mr. Schnars responded that the HSAC Structure Subcommittee will be meeting on this matter to answer questions.

In response to Mayor Pro Tempore Cole-McFadden's question as to how long WE HELP INC had been around, Mr. Schnars stated he did not know but USA Veterans Help had been around for several years. He added that they are not a non-profit organization and the requirement for ESG is the organization has to be a non-profit to apply for funds. Mr. Schnars believes that WE HELP INC was established as a new non-profit.

In reference to the ESG funding, City Manager Bonfield asked for more information on the LIFE Skills Foundation and what was going to happen differently from the funding the organization requested of \$30,000 to over double that amount. He asked if the organization would have the capacity to utilize twice that much money.

Alex Protzman, Executive Director for LIFE Skills explained that the LIFE Skills foundation has been providing housing and wrap around support for transition age youth in Durham for approximately seven or eight years. They have two small apartment buildings near NCCU and they serve about 25 young people with housing assistance. He commented that funds would be a way to serve more young people. According to Mr. Protzman, they originally applied for \$30,000 to provide services to about eight young people and they hope to increase their numbers.

In regards to capacity, Mr. Protzman stated LIFE Skills manages a number of different funding streams and they have a good mix of behavioral health, wrap around supports and case management as well as housing supports. He feels they will be able to manage an increase number of young people.

In response to Mayor Pro Tempore Cole-McFadden's question regarding who was on the committee that made the recommendations for final funding, Committee Member Karriker explained the reason the Structure Subcommittee was designated to take on this task was because the application deadline was before the next HSAC meeting. She added that even though the Structure Subcommittee was put in charge of making the decision, it was open to the entire HSAC. Other people that attended the Structure

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Subcommittee meeting included Chair Stoppelkamp, Committee Member Tuttle and Katie Crowe. Secretary McCollers and Vice-Chair Holmes were involved via conference call.

Mayor Pro Tempore Cole-McFadden expressed concern that Healing with CAARE does so much in the community and appears that the same organizations receive funding all of the time.

Discussion and questions regarding the appeal process followed.

Mr. Hopkins stated that the CoC should have been notified earlier of the upcoming funding availability. He added that an opportunity to receive assistance with completing the application process should have been put forth.

In reference to the appeal process, Mr. Hopkins feels that the HSAC should have the final decision.

Community Development Director Reginald Johnson reminded everyone that at the last meeting the HSAC reviewed the schedule and determined they were not able to accommodate that schedule in order for the entire body to be part of the normal process. Therefore, the HSAC voted to authorize the Structure Subcommittee to make the decisions based on the time frame that the application had to be submitted. Mr. Johnson also added that the HSAC authorized the Structure Subcommittee to encourage any member of the HSAC to attend the meeting.

Mr. Partee' shared his experiences in dealing with Healing with CAARE as well as with Urban Ministries when he became homeless in May. He noted that after applying with both organizations Urban Ministries placed him in housing within two months. However, Healing with CAARE requested additional information that Mr. Partee' said they already had. He commended Urban Ministries for assisting him so quickly.

Subject: Unlocking Doors Initiative

Janet Xiao with CEF/Unlocking Doors, provided a power point presentation on the *Shared Risk Fund* outlining what a risk mitigation fund could look like for voucher holders in Durham, North Carolina. Topics from the presentation included:

- Risk Mitigation Fund
- What we Learned at the Mayor's Landlord Round Table
- What we Learned From other Cities
- Pilot fund Size
- Where would funds come from
- Participation
- What would fund cover
- Who administers the fund
- Claims process
- Where does the information come from

Mayor Pro Tempore Cole-McFadden commented that landlords need to go through equity training, because it should not be stereotyped and assumed that everyone who has a housing voucher will tear up the rental property. She also feels that the Housing Authority needs to offer classes to voucher holders to teach them the basics on how to maintain the property.

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Committee Member Jones commented that as a property owner, she would embrace the risk mitigation fund package if it was available in the state where her property is located.

In response to City Manager Bonfield's question regarding what were other concerns raised by landlords, Ms. Xiao responded that communicating with the Housing Authority was their #1 concern. Also, property damage and the inspection process ranked high on the list of concerns for landlords.

Assistant County Manager Cummings wanted to know if there was data collection taking place with other communities. He felt this type of information could be provided to HUD to determine if this initiative would be something they would fund.

Other discussions and comments made included:

- Funding for Case Management
- What is being done to ensure units are in good repair prior to people becoming part of the process

Vice-Chair Holmes asked if there is something in place to prevent landlords from falsifying inspections and damages to receive money. Ms. Xiao stated there is a suggestion to have a more vigorous inspection process done by a neutral third party.

Ms. Xiao announced that an open forum entitled "*Section 8: Town Hall Event*" to hear from voucher holders will be held on November 17, 2016 at the Temple Building located at 302 W. Main Street. She extended an invitation for HSAC members to attend.

Subject: HSAC Signature Initiative

In a follow-up from the September 28, 2016 HSAC meeting, members were asked to select initiatives to focus on for FY 2016-17.

Coordinated Intake and Transition Age Youth were voted as the top two initiatives. From these two initiatives HSAC members voted to have their main focus for FY 2016-17 be Coordinated Intake.

Subject: Bull City Fresh Start

Mr. Schnars announced that a planning committee has been created to plan a combined Point-in-Time Count and Project Homeless Connect event. He noted that this will be a dual event with the Point-in-Time Count being held on January 25, 2017 and the Project Homeless Connect portion held on January 26, 2017.

Subject: HMIS

The HSAC has adopted the following two policies related to Homeless Management Information System governance. Mr. Schnars reported that the Structure Subcommittee has been diligent in finding ways to monitor compliance and performance in terms of the standards that have been established. He gave a brief overview of the policies and then opened the floor for questions.

- HMIS Data Quality Timelines Monitoring
- HMIS User License Monitoring

Subject: Reminders

The next HSAC meeting will be held on Wednesday, November 16, 2016 due to the Thanksgiving holiday.

Subject: Adjourn

With no further business to come before the Committee, Chair Stoppelkamp adjourned the meeting at 4:29 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted

Sheila Bullock, Senior Executive Assistant
Office of the City Clerk